

Alexander Ralston to Andrew Jackson, October 10, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

MAJOR ALEXANDER RALSTON TO JACKSON.¹

¹ Alexander Ralston was second major of the First Regiment of Tennessee militia (Col. Philip Pipkin). For details as to "the Execution of the Six Militiamen", see p. 60, n. 1, *ante*.

Fort Jackson, October 10, 1814.

Dear Genl. I have this day in the absence of the Col received your order of the 2nd Inst ordering him to call on Genl Taylor to aprehend the diserters from this Regement your order of the 19th our col has strictly attended to but the diserters pased Deposit before the army. they heard of the army comeing on and dispersed in difrent directions pased one Regement that was ordered to stop them and about thirty was attacked by a company of Regulars who fired on them kiled one and wounded two at Huntsvill. Col Pipkin sent on an expres on the 20th to Tennessee with a list of their names to go in the papers ofring a reward of ten dollars for each: there is fifteen voluntaraly returned to their posts; we have a verey helples Regement at this time there is upwards of one hundred that have not yet entred the servis and by disertion and sicknes we have not three hundred men fit for servis. at fort williams they have sufered verey much it appears principely occationed by spoiled flower. there is fifteen dead at that fort and nearley all the privats that could walk diserted from that fort the fue left are stil mostley sick. Mjr Smith and Dr Clark I heard yesterday were at the point of death. there is more sick at this fort than was some time back. Dr wm Wyne² is verey unwel with fevour: I lament our situation and perticularly thos unhapy diserters who have

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2 See p. 19, *ante*.

willingly brought distruction on themselves after every exertion had ben made to shew their dainger: